GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:247
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Villages in Forest Areas
Nishad Shri Ajay;Rathore Shri Hariom Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the forest areas of the country, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation/regularisation of these villages and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the details of the funds provided for the said purpose during the last three years, State/UT- wise; and
(d) whether the Government has fixed any target and time limit for the rehabilitation/ regularisation of the villages and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 247 due for answer on 15.03.2016 asked by Shri Hariom Singh Rathore and Shri Ajay Nishad regarding Villages in Forest Areas.

(a) The villages in forest areas may include forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages and other villages in the forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages. However, as per information available in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the State-wise details of the forest villages in the country is given at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" and "Project Tiger" under which funds are provided to States/UTs for relocation and rehabilitation of forest villages. The State/UT-wise details of funds provided for the said purpose under the above schemes during the last three years are given at Annexure-II.

Further, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognises the settlement and conversion of forest villages, whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages as a forest right. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal agency for implementation of this Act, has also issued guidelines on 08.11.2013 regarding conversion of all forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages and other villages in the forests, whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages under section 3(1)(h) of the said Act.

Rehabilitation and conversion of the forest villages is a continuous process, hence no target and time limit for such rehabilitation/regularisation of these villages has been fixed.

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